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Written statement* submitted by the Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Governments and the UN Must Stop Funding Used to Promote Antisemitism

Antisemitism is a very virulent and enduring form of racism that has unfortunately been reemerging to levels not seen since the 1930s, in the period leading up to the Holocaust. Throughout Europe, Jews have been deliberately targeted, violently attacked and murdered at synagogues, schools, kosher markets, and museums. Jews wearing yarmulkes (skull caps) or other religious markings are subject to harassment and violence. Crowds at soccer matches chant "Jews to the gas" and other genocidal taunts. Mass demonstrations in European capitals, ostensibly to protest Israeli actions towards the Palestinians, are rife with antisemitic and Nazi sloganeering and imagery. University campuses have seen extreme targeting and singling out of Jews. In Iran, state-sponsored Holocaust denial and calls to "wipe Israel off the map" are entrenched. Arab media is filled with vitriolic antisemitism and blood libels.

Government and UN Funding Used to Promote Antisemitism

As antisemitism rises and reaches crisis levels in Europe, NGOs that claim to promote human rights and humanitarian agendas in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and executing the Durban Strategy have fueled and exacerbated hatred of and discrimination against Jews, promoting antisemitic themes and imagery, as at the Durban Conference. These groups, which include international, Palestinian, and Israeli NGOs, also fail to report on or condemn antisemitism and incitement against Jews.

Despite the extensive evidence of NGO antisemitism – egregious examples are provided below – governments, in particular in Europe, continue to fund these groups with hundreds of millions of dollars, pounds, euros, and kroner, and enable the problematic activities and rhetoric.

For instance, BADIL, a rabidly anti-Israel NGO, has been awarded $251,000 in core funding for 2014-16 by Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Netherlands through the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat. These governments, which ostensibly provide funding to support human rights and international law, are instead enabling an NGO that has engaged in egregious antisemitism through the posting of horrific antisemitic and anti-Israel images on its website.

Project-based funding, which is ostensibly provided for a specific project, with its own intended outcomes and objectives, can be abused, as well. Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), an NGO receiving massive funding from countries such as the EU, UK, Australia and others, has been active in anti-Israel lobbying for years. However, its founding director, Dr. Swee Ang Chai, has also promoted virulent classical antisemitism (see below).

Moreover, funding is fungible. Justifications that NGO projects are unrelated to a grantee's wider agenda and expressions of antisemitism belie government funders' full responsibility for the activities of their grantees. Moreover, there is no doubt that if these groups had engaged in anti-black or LGBT discrimination, they would not receive funding from these governments. Yet, antisemitic activity does not serve as a bar to funding.

The harmful effects of this government support for NGOs are sustained by the secrecy that governs funding processes and shields NGO funding from public scrutiny. This lack of transparency is manifest in government websites and databases that do not provide basic information (i.e. amounts, project descriptions) on NGO grants, the refusal of funding agencies to release documentation on evaluations and decision making, and the refusal of government officials and diplomats responsible for allocating funds to NGOs to respond substantively to inquiries.

The ongoing government funding for NGOs that engage in antisemitic activities and use antisemitic rhetoric highlights the persistent double standard: **Hatred of Jews is tolerated in a way that would be unthinkable for other racial, ethnic, or religious groups.** Likewise, Jewish and Israeli targets are often denied the right to define what constitutes discrimination against them.

Main Forms of NGO Antisemitism

As seen in the following examples, when conducting anti-Israel campaigns, and especially during periods of intense conflict (e.g. the 2014 Gaza War), NGOs frequently use opposition to Israeli policies and purported anti-Zionism as cover for antisemitism. This is usually tied to accusations of Israeli "war crimes" and human rights violations, which reinforce these campaigns. They regularly include a radical fringe of Jews, recruited in an attempt to deflect accusations of antisemitism, double standards, and demonization – which is itself a form of antisemitism. These groups include international NGOs (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch), Palestinian NGOs (MIFTAH, BADIL, Sabeel, Kairos Palestine , Electronic Intifada, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme), and Israeli groups (Alternative Information Center, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions).

Contemporary antisemitism is evidenced in NGO political campaigns based on the strategy adopted by the NGO Forum of the 2001 Durban Conference, through the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement (BDSM) and legal attacks ("lawfare"). These campaigns regularly include a radical fringe of Jews, recruited in an attempt to deflect accusations of antisemitism, double standards, and demonization – which is itself a form of antisemitism.

Contrary to NGO claims that they are engaging in "legitimate criticism" of Israel, the NGO rhetoric, publications, and activities often violate accepted standards, including the EU and U.S. definitions of antisemitism.

The following are just two egregious examples of how NGOs ostensibly claiming to promote human rights have engaged in antisemitism or refused to take action to combat against it:

In July 2014, during the Gaza conflict, Dr. Swee Ang Chai, founder of Medical Aid for Palestinians, which is based in the UK and receives government and EU funding, promoted a virulently antisemitic video by the white supremacist, David Duke, a former leader of the Klu Klux Klan. In addition, Swee Ang is one of the signatories of the "Open Letter for the People of Gaza," published by the British medical journal, *The Lancet*. The letter accuses Israel of "war crimes" while ignoring Hamas's crimes of rocket fire and terror tunnels from Gaza into Israeli territory, and denies Israel the right of self-defense.

In 2008, MAP received proceeds from an anti-Israel Christmas campaign that offered an "alternative carol service" to "highlight current reality in the Holy Land." Lord Carey of Clifton, former Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke out against the event, arguing that it demonstrated that "anti-Semitism and hostility to Jews still lurked beneath the surface in Christian circles in Britain." Referring to the carol service, he added: "Such actions strengthen an anti-Israeli agenda, trivialize the political issues and nourish an anti-Semitic culture." This "culture," which is prevalent among church groups, reflects theological antisemitism, using regressive language to weaken and disrupt Jewish-Christian relations. Christian pro-Palestinian activists have built on this foundation and introduced resolutions calling on their respective churches to boycott Israel and divest from companies doing business in or with Israel.

In parallel, on April 19, 2015, Amnesty International's UK branch held its Annual General meeting. Out of 17 proposed motions, the only resolution that was rejected called on Amnesty-UK to "Campaign against anti-Semitism in the UK," as well as "Lobby the UK Government to tackle the rise in anti-Semitic attacks in Britain," and "monitor anti-semitism closely."

When criticized for this absurd decision, an Amnesty-UK official claimed that "our membership decided not to pass this resolution calling for a campaign with a single focus." This is false – the NGO has in fact has initiated "single focus" campaigns in the past, for instance, approving "overwhelmingly" a 2010 resolution on Sinti and Roma Communities because "Within the last year widespread discrimination and violence against Sinti and Roma communities has intensified in a number of European countries, which Amnesty International has published within respective country reports."

The vote also took place in the context of repeated examples of racism within this ostensibly moral organization itself – in particular the activities of a prominent staff member who history of obsessive anti-Israel attacks and antisemitic outbursts, and was investigated for some of his rhetoric; however, serious steps have not been taken.

As these examples show, the ongoing government funding for NGOs that engage in antisemitic activities and use antisemitic rhetoric highlights, as mentioned, the persistent double standard: **Hatred of Jews is tolerated in a way that would be unthinkable for other racial, ethnic, or religious groups.** Likewise, Jewish and Israeli targets are often denied the right to define what constitutes discrimination against them. To defeat this virulent form of racism, it is necessary to develop and implement an effective strategy, over a period of many years. This process must begin by ending government and UN funds to these organizations, and by continuing with educating all parts of society on the need to stop antisemitism.